

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a biocompatible material having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder integrally formed therein; and

a radiopaque marker made from a material having a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the biocompatible material from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of longitudinally projecting fingers which define a substantially V-shaped opening, wherein each projecting finger has a substantially linearly extending contact edge formed thereon and the radiopaque marker includes a substantially V-shaped mounting region which fits within the V-shaped opening defined by the pair of longitudinally projecting fingers, the radiopaque marker having a pair of substantially linearly extending contact edges formed thereon each of which contacts a contact edge of the projecting fingers ~~applying a force on the V-shaped mounting region which holds the radiopaque marker on the marker holder.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 1, further including a weld attaching the radiopaque marker to the projecting fingers of the marker holder.

3. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the projecting fingers are connected at a notched region located between the ends of the projecting fingers which allows the projecting fingers to move laterally to accept the radiopaque marker.

4. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 3, further including a weld that attaches the radiopaque marker to the projecting fingers.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the V-shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers defines a particular first angle when the pair of projecting fingers are unattached to the marker and the V-shaped mounting region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening, wherein the V-shaped opening is adapted to enlarge to the angle of the mounting region of the radiopaque marker when the mounting region is placed into the V-shaped opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 3, wherein the mounting region of the radiopaque marker is larger than the opening defined by the projecting fingers when the mounting region is not placed in the opening and the projecting fingers are movable to form a larger sized opening when the mounting region is placed into the opening.

8. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a superelastic alloy having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder; and

a radiopaque marker made from a nickel-titanium alloy including a ternary element which attains a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the superelastic alloy from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers which define a substantially V-shaped opening and each projecting finger has a substantially linearly extending contact edge formed thereon, the radiopaque marker includes including a substantially V-shaped mounting region that fits within the V-shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers, the mounting region of the marker

including a pair of substantially linearly extending contact edges, each of which comes in contact with a contact edge of a projecting finger, the projecting fingers applying a force on the V-shaped mounting region which holds the radiopaque marker on the marker holder.

9. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the ternary element is selected from the group of elements consisting of iridium, platinum, gold, rhenium, tungsten, palladium, rhodium, tantalum, silver, ruthenium, and hafnium.

10. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the ternary element is platinum and the atomic percent of platinum is greater than or equal to 2.5 and less than or equal to 15.

11. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the superelastic alloy is nickel-titanium alloy.

12. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the structural body includes a plurality of marker holders integrally formed with the structural body and the medical device includes a plurality of radiopaque markers attachable to the marker holders.

13. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the radiopaque marker is attached to the marker holder by melting a portion of the radiopaque marker and/or the marker holder.

14. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 8, further including a weld which attaches the radiopaque marker to the marker holder.

15. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the structural body is a stent.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 15, further including a weld which attaches the radiopaque marker to the projecting fingers of the marker holder.

18. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the projecting fingers are connected at a notched region located between the projecting fingers which allows the projecting fingers to move laterally to accept the radiopaque marker.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the V- shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers defines a particular first angle when the projecting fingers are unattached to the radiopaque marker and the V-shaped region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening.

22-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 4, wherein the mounting region of the radiopaque marker which fits within the opening defined by the projecting fingers of the marker holder is slightly larger than the opening when the mounting region is not placed in the opening and the projecting fingers are movable to form a larger sized opening when the mounting region is placed into the opening.

33-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a biocompatible material having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder integrally formed therein; and

a radiopaque marker made from a material having a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the biocompatible material from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers extending away from the structural body to form an opening having a first shape, each projecting finger having a substantially linearly extending contact edge, the radiopaque marker includes including a mounting region having substantially the same shape as the first shape of the opening formed by the projecting fingers, the mounting region including substantially linearly extending side edges adapted to contact the projecting fingers to cause the fingers to move outwards to move the opening into a second, expanded shape in which the side edges of the mounting region contact the side edge formed on each projecting finger.

43. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a nickel-titanium alloy, the structural body including a plurality of marker holders integrally formed therein; and

a plurality of radiopaque marker made from a nickel-titanium-platinum alloy, each radiopaque marker being attachable within one of the marker holders, wherein each marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers extending away from the structural body to form an opening having a first shape, each projecting finger having a substantially linearly extending contact edge formed thereon, and each radiopaque marker includes a mounting region having substantially the same shape as the first shape of the opening formed by the projecting fingers, each mounting region including substantially linearly extending side edges adapted to contact the contact edge formed on the projecting fingers of a marker holder to cause the projecting fingers to move outward to move the opening into a second, expanded shape.

44. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 43, wherein the projecting fingers of each marker holder forms an opening having a V-shape.

45. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 44, wherein each first shape of the opening defined by the projecting fingers of a marker holder defines a particular first angle when a radiopaque marker is not placed in the marker holder and each mounting region of each radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the angle of the first-shaped opening of the marker holder.

46. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 43, wherein a notched region extends between each projecting finger of each marker holder to allow each projecting finger to move relative to the other.

47. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 43, further including a weld which attaches each radiopaque marker to a marker holder.

48. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 43, wherein each marker holder applies a force on the mounting region of the radiopaque marker associated with that marker holder.

49. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 48, wherein the projecting fingers of each marker holder applies a force on the sides of the mounting region of each radiopaque marker.

50. (Previously Presented) The implantable medical device of claim 49, further including a weld which attaches each radiopaque marker to a marker holder.

51. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 43 42, wherein each marker holder applies a force on the mounting region of the radiopaque marker associated with that marker holder.

52. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 48 51, wherein the projecting fingers of each marker holder applies a force on the sides of the mounting region of each radiopaque marker.